(b) if so, the details thereof including number of barns closed in the country, State-wise;

(c) if so, whether any compensation has been paid to tobacco barn owners;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(e) whether any financial relief has been given to tobacco cultivators for providing them incentives for raising alternative crops in the form of input-subsidy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Export prospects in Latin America

1792. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-items captioned, "Export promotion drive soon-Exporters see good business in Latin America," which appeared in the Economic Times, dated the 26th August, 2002;

(b) whether our exporters are mounting a major export promotion drive in Latin America;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the help rendered by Government or the Export Promotion Council to encourage exporters in their drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Focus: LAC Strategy of the Department of Commerce, our exporters have shown great interest in exporting to Latin America, as evidenced by their participation in the following major events:

(i) Buyer-Seller Meet in Drugs and Pharmaceuticals during Indo-Latin American Health Summit held in New Delhi in September, 2002.

(ii) Indo-Latin American Buyer-Seller Meet during Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (October, 2002) at New Delhi.

(iii) Indian exhibition of Handicraft in Venezuela (November, 2002).

(iv) Combined Textile Exhibitions in Colombia, Brazil (November, 2002).

(v) Indiatech Exhibition 2003 at Sao Paulo, Brazil to be held in March, 2003.

(vi) India Soft Exhibition-cum-Buyer-Seller Meet 2003 at New Delhi to be held in February, 2003.

In addition to the above Indian exporters are also participating in various product specific exhibitions/fairs/Buyer-Seller Meets in Latin American countries in individual capacity as well as, as a part of delegation led by Apex Chambers/Export Promotion Councils.

(d) Government has launched a programme Focus: LAC under which the exporters are eligible for grant of Market Development Assistance through respective Export Promotion Councils to compensate a substantial portion of their cost for export promotion of their products in Latin American market under the following items as per the prescribed Marketing Development Assistance guidelines:—

(i) Air Travel.

(ii) Cost of built up stalls in the fair/exhibition in Latin America.

(iii) Publicity.

(iv) Rent of opening of warehouse in Latin American Countries.

(v) Opening up of foreign offices in Latin American Countries.

(vi) Training in Spanish/Portuguese language.

In addition to the above for the purpose of recognition of an exporter as Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading

House, double weightage is given on free on Board or Net Foreign Exchange basis on exports to Latin American countries provided such exports are made in freely convertible currency.

Demand for domestic products

1793. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for domestic products in the year 2002-2003 has been extremely low;

(b) If so, whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Global slow down to affect domestic demand exports", which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 19th August, 2002;

(c) if so, Government's reaction to this report; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the demand for domestic goods in the country as also their exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The demand for industrial products as reflected in the growth of industrial production, has shown recovery since the beginning of the current fiscal year (2002-03). As per the latest data available on Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Indian industry grew by 5.2% during April-September 2002-03 as compared to 2.4% in April-September 2001-02. The growth during September, 2002 has been 6.1% as against 2% in September, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The report titled "Global slowdown to affect domestic demand, exports", which appeared in the Economic Times dated 19th August, 2002 raises concern over moderation of domestic demand and exports due to weak monsoon and downward revision of global growth forecasts. The impact of poor monsoon is felt after a lag. As of now, there are no indications of slowdown in demand of domestic products and exports due to poor rainfall. As per the latest data available, there is growth in industrial